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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/938,528	08/27/2001	Koji Arita	740-819-634	2800
22204	7590	12/22/2004	EXAMINER	
NIXON PEABODY, LLP 401 9TH STREET, NW SUITE 900 WASHINGTON, DC 20004-2128			BLUM, DAVID S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2813	

DATE MAILED: 12/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<i>Supplemental Notice of Allowability</i>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/938,528	ARITA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	David S Blum	2813	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to 11/20/03.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,4 and 5.
3.  The drawings filed on 20 November 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All    b)  Some\*    c)  None    of the:
    1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

5.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
  - (a)  The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the Examiner.
  - (c)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____.            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No. _____  | <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other  |

This action is in response to a request for clarification filed 3/5/04 .

The following corrects a typographical error.

***Reasons for Allowance***

1. Claims 1 and 4-5 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 contains the limitation for forming a semiconductor device where an embedded layer is formed on a second insulating layer so that an isolation groove (trench) is filled and then a third isolation layer is formed that continuously covers at least two element isolation grooves and the region other than the element formation region (as claimed, a region between two isolation grooves), and remains so in the completed device (support for this is shown on pages 24 (line 24) to 25 (line 8) of the instant specification.). This limitation, in combination with the other limitations of claim 1 is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record. Razouk (US005581110A) forms a third isolation layer is formed and continuously covers over at least two element isolation grooves and the region other than the element formation region, but Razouk etches the third layer back so that it covers only the isolation groove and a small region outside the groove. The layer no longer extends over the non-element formation region. Bajor (US 5,504,033) etches back the third layer so that it also is only a cap over the isolation groove.

Claims 4-5 are allowed as being properly dependent upon allowed claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David S. Blum whose telephone number is (703)-306-9168 (after approximately 02/05/04 (7571-272-1687) and e-mail address is [David.blum@USPTO.gov](mailto:David.blum@USPTO.gov) .

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl Whitehead Jr., can be reached at (703)-308-4940. Our facsimile number all patent correspondence to be entered into an application is (703) 872-9306. The facsimile number for customer service is (703)-872-9317. Our receptionist's number is (703)-308-0956.



David S. Blum

December 21, 2004